Serial No.: 10/557,834 Attorney Docket No.: 018872.00163
Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-16, 18-21, 24 and 27-43 are now pending. Claims 19-21 and 24 are

amended herein.

The Office Action requires restriction between two different groups, Group I (claims 1-3,

5-11, 13-16, 18-20, 27-41 and 43) and Group II (claims 19-21, 24 and 42). The Examiner is

respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction. Applicants have amended claims 19-21 and

24 (the Group II claims) herein to contain all the features of the Group I claims.

The Examiner also states in the Office Action that there would be a serious search and

examination burden if restriction were not required. However, there is no serious burden

because Group II claims 19-21 and 24 have already been examined on the merits. Claim 42 has

not been previously examined on the merits. However, claim 42 depends from claim 20 which

has been previously examined on the merits.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement and ask that it

be withdrawn. However, as required under 35 USC 121, Applicants provisionally elect Group I,

claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-16, 18-20, 27-41 and 43.

Please consider this to be a Petition for Extension of Time for three (3) months. If any

additional fees are occasioned by this Response, the Director is hereby authorized to charge them

to, or to credit, Deposit Account 08-2442 of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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